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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Kenneth L. Rinehart et al
Application No. 10/693,174
Filed: October 23, 2003
Attorney Docket No. 4126-4012

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: DECISION ON PETITION
: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)
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This is a decision on the renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6), filed March 2, 2006, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) for the benefit of the prior-filed provisional applications set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and must be filed during the pendency of the nonprovisional application. In addition, the petition must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(i) to the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim herein for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed provisional applications is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii). Therefore, this is a proper petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6).

The petition complies with the requirements for a grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) in that (1) a reference to the prior-filed provisionals applications has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title, as provided by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(iii); (2) the surcharge fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(t) has been submitted; and (3) the petition contains a proper statement of unintentional delay. Accordingly, having found that the instant petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to the prior-filed provisional applications satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6), the petition is granted.

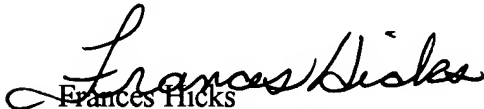
The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the prior-filed applications. In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications, all other requirements

under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(4) and (a)(5) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicants are entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed provisional applications, accompanies this decision on petition.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Wan Laymon at (571) 272-3220. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This matter is being referred to Technology Center AU 1614 for appropriate action on the amendment submitted March 2, 2006, including consideration by the examiner of the claim under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed provisional applications.


Frances Hicks
Lead Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

ATTACHMENT Corrected Filing Receipt